

Hafa Adai!

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\$1

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THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 2022

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AT A GLANCE

As of 5:12pm, Jan. 26, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population: 98.8%

Fully Vaccinated: 98.8%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech

Initiated: 37,549

Fully Vaccinated: 36,311

Moderna

Initiated: 5,316

Fully Vaccinated: 5,142

Janssen

Fully vaccinated: 1,120

GUAM

OLD NEW TOTAL

Positive 28,628 850 29,478

Recovered 22,246 5 22,251

Active 6,095 850 6,945

Deaths 282 0 282

SAIPAN

OLD NEW TOTAL

Positive 4,265 175 4,440

Traced via Travel Screening 496 20 516

Traced via Community Screening 3,769 155 3,924

Deaths 22 0 22

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

Red: Least safe

Orange

Yellow

Blue

Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COV-



0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000 35,000 40,000 45,000

42,573 Fully vaccinated

43,985 First dose

Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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Thailand becomes the first country in Asia to approve the decriminalization of marijuana.

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Local

\$10K bail for man who allegedly assaulted pregnant girlfriend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man accused of choking and "body slamming" his pregnant girlfriend because she got into a physical altercation with her sister who is also believed to be the man's lover.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on

Albert Esefou, a man charged with assault and battery domestic violence, and disturbing the peace after he allegedly seized his pregnant girlfriend up by the neck and slammed her to ground.

Court documents state that he physically assaulted his girlfriend of 10 years because she threw a rock at her sister's car and pulled her hair after allegedly finding out that the two were having an affair.

Following his bail hearing, Govendo remanded Esefou back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to return to court on Feb. 3, at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing. His arraignment was also set for Feb. 7 at 9am before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

According to court documents, at around 8:23am on Jan. 22, Department of Public Safety dispatched units to As

Lito in response to a disturbance-in-progress call.

At the scene, police saw a man, later identified as Esefou, walking away from the female victim.

The woman, who was pregnant, was observed to have had an injury along the right portion of her face and was crying and shouting as she claims she felt numb and had a difficult time catching her breath. She managed to tell

police that her boyfriend of 10 years had beaten her up.

In a statement to police, she explained that when Esefou arrived at their home in As Lito earlier that day, they started talking about their relationship when he told her he was going to leave.

As Esefou was leaving the house, the victim said she followed him and saw a blue Toyota Prius parked at the neighbor's house. Inside the car was her sister. The victim said she shouted at her sister to open the doors but it was locked, which prompted her to throw a rock at the Prius, dam-

aging the windshield.

Esefou allegedly tried to push the victim away from the Prius but when she wouldn't budge, he allegedly choked her neck, scratched her along the right portion of her face, and threw her down on the gravel road.

The victim said she was on the ground already and Esefou continued to kick her backside before reaching down to pull her hair and tried to punch her in the face.

In a follow up interview, the victim explained that she had suspected that Esefou and her sister were having an affair.

Palacios lauds completion of Rota West Harbor rehabilitation

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios praised yesterday the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on the recent completion of the Rota West Harbor Marina Rehabilitation Project.

Speaking from his office on Capital Hill, Palacios acknowledged that this project was a long and tedious process. "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate DLNR Secretary Anthony T. Benavente, Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny M. Pangelinan, and DFW Boating Access program supervisor Vicente A. Camacho for taking charge of a worthy project and seeing through from start to finish."

Palacios also cited Rota DLNR resident director David Calvo and his staff, DLNR, and DFW staff for assisting in the removal and installation of the Rota West Harbor Marina Docking system.

"This is a major accomplishment. Congratulations on a job well done and thank you," Palacios added.

With the project now complete and a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 28, 2022, the people of Rota will soon be able to reap the benefits of the project through such activities as recreational boating.

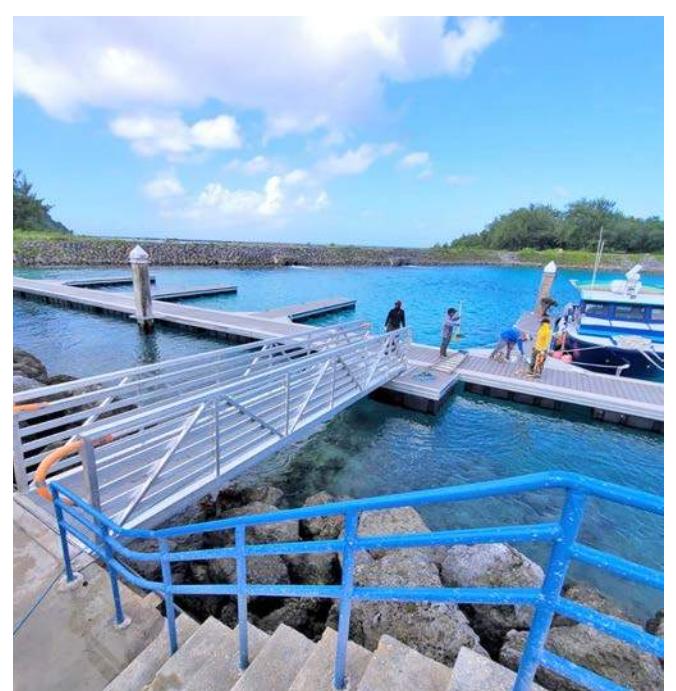
After encountering several devastating storms to include a super typhoon and other territorially declared disasters, the repairs associated with these storms are now finally complete and the Rota West Harbor Marina is now in a better position to withstand the weather-related effects that have plagued this harbor for so long.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Rota West Harbor Marina Rehabilitation Project is now finally done.

CPA to hold public Q&A about newest audit findings

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is set to hold a series of public meetings where members of the CNMI community can personally ask questions about CPA's ongoing dispute with Star Marianas Airlines and the controversy surrounding its fiscal year 2021 audit report.

In a statement from CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said that CPA will hold public hearings on all three islands to further ensure that the community understands the current issues surrounding CPA, including its long ongoing issues with SMA.

"In furtherance of ensuring that the public understands what's going on with the audit and the ongoing dispute with SMA, CPA will be conducting public hearings on all three islands," she said. "CPA welcomes all interested citizens to participate in our regular board meetings to share their concerns regarding our annual audit."

King-Hinds said that audit findings will be presented during this hearing and members of the CPA management will do its best to answer any questions the public may have about SMA.

"At these public hearings, CPA will present the findings of the audit, the ongoing dispute with SMA and answer any questions that the public may have as it relates to those issues. The time and venue of these public hearings will be announced in the near future," she said.

According to a press release from CPA, this year's audit presented five findings that were cited as causes of concern.

The first finding generally relates to not recording expenses in the proper reporting period.

The second finding states that CPA didn't follow certain procurement rules and regulations.

The third finding states that CPA is not in compliance with equipment and real property policies and regulations.

Finding number four was made in regard to discrepancies in CPA's reporting of its local share for certain federally-funded projects.

Lastly, finding number five questioned whether certain costs are allowed under the certain grant terms and conditions. In some of the findings, CPA disagreed with the auditor. In other cases, CPA believes that it is an allowable cost and has contacted the grantor—the Federal

Aviation Administration—to confirm whether these costs are allowable under the grant and is waiting for further FAA guidance.

"Audits are a great way of ensuring that CPA is transparent and accountable to the public as to the manner in which it expends public

funds. More importantly, it is a great tool for board members to see where the gaps are in terms of policies and where manage-

ment needs to improve with regards to operating procedures. I am confident that CPA's management will implement the necessary

corrective actions and measures to resolve the findings as raised by the audit," King-Hinds said. (*Kimberly B. Esmores*)

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2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD	\$33,995	18P344	15,260 MILES	\$34,836
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD	\$31,995	17P388	22,500 MILES	\$32,173
2018 KIA FORTE LX	\$14,995	18HS951	13,602 MILES	\$18,632
2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT	\$18,995	21D019C	38,500 MILES	\$19,253
2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TURBO	\$21,995	19P371	30,501 MILES	\$23,606
2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT	\$24,995	5P279	70,502 MILES	\$27,863
2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4	\$14,995	18HS1011	5,800 MILES	\$14,778
2020 HYUNDAI VENUE	\$18,995	21D082A	8,383 MILES	\$21,071
2018 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT	\$22,995	22M002A	13,002 MILES	\$22,440
2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GLS AWD	\$26,995	22M017A	32,501 MILES	\$27,844
2017 KIA SPORTAGE EX	\$18,995	17P372	51,470 MILES	\$23,611
2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL	\$18,995	17P365	62,261 MILES	\$19,752
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER 4WD	\$23,995	22H116A	36,700 MILES	\$25,840
2019 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT	\$28,995	22M021A	27,105 MILES	\$29,936
2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4	\$18,995	20R277	18,418 MILES	\$16,607
2016 TOYOTA COROLLA	\$19,995	16P378	20,097 MILES	
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2013 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER 4WD	\$37,995	13P359	85,000 MILES	
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT	\$18,995	8HS889	8,692 MILES	\$19,496
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6	\$19,995	16P380	52,907 MILES	\$20,065

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is joined by Mount Carmel School acting president Frances Taimanao, MCS vice principal Filmah Buenaflor, MCS board chair Vicente Babauta, and MCS students inside the Mount Carmel Cathedral during a proclamation signing yesterday that declared the week of Jan. 30–Feb. 5, 2022, as Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sablan: Political intimidation in gov't must end

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), the NMI Democratic Party's candidate for governor in the November general election, said Monday that if elected, she and her running mate, Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan), are going to end what they described as a "culture of political intimidation in government" that she claimed is happening in the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres right now.

During a press conference at Island Café and Restaurant in Garapan, Sablan said Staffler is a champion of the Whistleblower Protection Act, which

she is a co-sponsor along with other colleagues in the House of Representatives.

"In a lot of ways, that is a response to the culture that we see now and that we hear about all the time in government employees who are afraid to speak, afraid to exercise their First Amendment right. Because retaliation is real and that needs to stop," she said.

On the House's impeachment of Torres, Sablan said in terms of their roles as legislators and in reviewing the documents and evidence and listening to the testimonies that came out during the House's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigations, they were doing

their jobs. Sablan said these are jobs that she and Staffler, along with her colleagues in the House, take very seriously.

The JGO is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels. It has yet to issue a final report.

Sablan noted that the impeachment was a bipartisan vote, as it was Democrats, independents, and Republicans that came to the conclusion over the course of this investigation in the last two years that Torres' conduct rose to the level of impeachment.

Now that the vote to impeach Torres is done and there will be trial in the Senate, Sablan said that she and Staffler are ready to move forward with presenting their vision of

what government could and should be like.

She said when they talk of good governance, it means fairness and honesty, and fiscal responsibility.

Sablan said everything that they learned in these last two years during the JGO investigation, but also even before that, with this House special committee on impeachment, they were looking at all kinds of examples of how not run a government, how not to take care of public funds, and also how not to take care of the people who work in government.

"So we are presenting a much different and more positive vision of what leadership and government should be,"

she said.

As to the issue of Staffler running for the second highest position in office without much experience, Staffler said she may be new to this system but the one thing that she can tell is that she has a lot of experience with systems, which are her passion.

"One of the things that

I've always been really good at is getting people to work together for a common goal," said the 42-year-old Staffler, who is serving a first term in the House representing Precinct 5.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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ed that there have been 3,926 recoveries, 492 active cases, and 22 COVID-19-related deaths.

Separately, in a Jan. 25 press release from the Rota Health Center, RHC reported that the island's four most recent cases were identified through community-based testing at RHC. The four cases bring the island's total to 16.

A total of 58 close contacts were identified, with 57 testing negative for COVID-19. A total of 64 PCR tests were conducted on Jan. 25, said RHC.

RHC added that its Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has "already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the newly confirmed cases, and this effort will continue until all probable cases are identified and tested."

RALLY

From Page 1

vince CNMI voters.

In her remarks, Sablan said she and her running mate are sometimes asked is the Commonwealth ready for two women to lead the CNMI government. "And the answer to that is yes!" said Sablan after people cheered "yes" and clapped.

Campaign organizers distributed flyers with messages such as "Change is on the ballot," "Good governance starts today," and "Tina & Leila for you in 2022!" Blue and white balloons were tied to tents.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the CNMI's first governor, Carlos Camacho, joined other Democrat lawmakers under a tent that served as their stage.

At the ceremony, Rep.

Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) introduced Staffler, while Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), introduced Sablan.

Sablan said she and Staffler are already proof that change is possible in the Marianas. "Change takes time. It requires hard work, collaboration, and human ingenuity," Sablan said.

She said she always believes in the tremendous potential of the Marianas to be among the best places on Earth to live and visit.

"We have natural beauty in abundance. We have incredible cultural richness and diversity, and truly some of the kindest, most generous and most talented people on Earth..." Sablan said.

Sablan said she and Staffler are offering leadership that is fair, honest and compassionate—leadership that strives

to lift everyone up, leadership that prioritizes investments in the education and health of our people, and in safe and resilient infrastructure throughout our islands," she said.

Sablan said she understands how crucial education is to the economic development and prosperity of the whole Commonwealth.

She said they recognize that health is wealth and the ability to grow and thrive as a community is directly connected to the health of the people and their access to care.

"We also know that our capacity for social and economic development depends on essential infrastructure, clean, drinkable 24-hour water, stable and affordable power, supported by energy efficiency mandates and renewable sources," the lawmaker said.

She said there will be safe streets with sidewalks, crosswalks, proper lighting and bicycle lanes, and a comprehensive program of solid waste management that includes recycling, coordinated collection and sanitary landfills on all three islands.

She said wastewater treatment is important on all three islands that protects the Commonwealth waters.

The lawmaker said qualified ethical people will be appointed to lead government departments and agencies.

She said there will be no sweetheart deals, no political interference in law enforcement, no special favors to special interests in the Sablan-Staffler administration.

When *Saipan Tribune* left past 6pm, the event was still ongoing.

CNMI'S

From Page 1

have been lagging compared to the rate of infections since Oct. 28, 2021.

Responding to an inquiry by *Saipan Tribune* last week, Kern-Allely, who has returned to the CNMI to continue to provide epidemiology support and work closely with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., said the weekly number of COVID-19 infections rose rapidly to a peak in mid-December and since then has been on a decline.

As for the hospitalization rate, Kern-Allely said it peaked in the first week of January and since then has also been on a decline.

These are based on what has been observed of infection numbers and hospitalization rates from October 2021 to

last week, she said.

"Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 lag behind the number of cases. Since Oct. 28, the weekly number of COVID-19 cases rapidly rose to a peak in mid-December and has since been declining. Meanwhile, the rate of hospitalization peaked the first week of January and is now declining. This represents a three-week lag from the latest peak in cases to the peak in hospitalization rate," she said.

So far, there have been a total of 4,344 COVID-19 cases in the CNMI since March 26, 2020. As of Jan. 24, 2022, there are now a total of 3,887 recoveries; 435 active cases; and 22 COVID-19-related deaths.

The CNMI's closest neighbor, Guam, had a total of 29,478 cases as of yesterday; 22,251 recoveries; 6,945 active cases; and 282 deaths.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 - 022

Opening Date: January 26, 2022
Closing Date: February 8, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Dispatch Operator
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Five (5)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-018

Opening Date: January 26, 2022
Closing Date: February 8, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Meter Reader
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Billing & Collections
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Four (4)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Perform work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assist in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assist in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Couple entangled in homicide case pleads not guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A couple allegedly involved in the stabbing death of a man on New Year's Day has pleaded not guilty to the charges against them

During an arraignment last Monday, Kong Lingyang, 34, pleaded not guilty to the charges of second-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja. His girlfriend, Yi Lyuqin, 53, pleaded not guilty to the charge of accessory after the fact.

Following the arraignment, Naraja assigned the homicide case to Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho. Naraja ordered the two to appear before Camacho for a case management conference on March 2 at 10am. In addition, he ordered the parties to advise the court whether the matter will be disposed of by a change of plea, trial, or other disposition.

Last Monday, Kong and Yi appeared in court in the custody of the Department of Corrections via videoconference.

Kong was represented by assistant public defender Em-

ily Thomsen while Yi was represented by Matthew Holley. Interpreters were also provided to the defendants. Assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

According to court documents, the couple was arrested in the early hours of Jan. 1 for their alleged involvement in the stabbing murder of Li SongZhi.

Kong allegedly stabbed Li multiple times following an altercation between the two that stemmed from an alteration between their girlfriends.

Li suffered multiple injuries to his upper body with lacerations on his head, neck, and upper torso and puncture wounds to his chest and rib cage.

In a statement from Kong, he said he became angry when Li was assaulting him, causing him to reach for the pocket knife in his right back pocket. He claims he stopped after two stabs after seeing Li's shirt soaked in blood.

After the stabbing, Kong said that Yi told him to run but he didn't. As they were approached by police at Smile Massage, Kong said he realized that the knife was gone from his pocket and assumed that Yi had taken it and left.

Meanwhile, after arresting Yi, she told police in a separate interview that Kong and Li were scuffling on the ground for a while before she pulled Kong off from Li. As she and Kong left Li lying on the ground, police pulled up and began talking to Kong. She said that's when she saw a pocket knife sticking out of Kong's back pocket and pulled it out and hid it behind a typhoon shutter near King's Jewelry.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free live webinar today, Jan. 27, 2022, on government subcontracting. Subcontracting plans, limitations, and related FAR clauses will be discussed. This webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. A link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

To register, visit: <https://guampatc.ecenterdirect.com/events/620>. (PR)

5.2-magnitude quake near Merizo

At 5:45pm on Jan. 21, 2022, a report of a 5.2-magnitude earthquake occurred 65 kilometers southwest of Merizo village, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-005	Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors	\$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED	Jan. 27, 2022	Feb. 16, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

'SMA working on being VA-recognized'

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs is currently working closely with Star Marianas Air so that U.S. veterans who fly to Saipan to obtain care will have their airfare reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo said Monday this will resolve one of the challenges faced by veterans living on Tinian and Rota, when they have to pay out of pocket for airfare to fly out and receive care on Saipan.

Iakopo said he is working closely with Star Marianas Air to make the airline a recognized and reimbursable entity by USVA. He said that Star Marianas is working on securing all necessary certifications and requirements to be recognized as a reimbursable vendor. Iakopo added that he is putting Star Marianas in contact with the chief of transportation of the VA Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii.

45-day timeline set for nominees to Rota board

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Friday a Senate local bill that gives the Rota Municipal Council up to 45 days to process the mayor's appointees to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Board.

Torres informed Rota Legislative Delegation co-chairpersons Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind) and Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind), and Senate President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) that he signed Senate Local Bill 22-7, D1, into Rota Local Law 22-05.

Santos introduced the bill in July 2021. The Rota Legislative Delegation unanimously passed it last Dec. 9.

The bill amends the Commonwealth Code to provide a limited time to act on the confirmation or rejection of the Rota mayor's appointees to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Board.

Santos said over the weekend that, as the local bill becomes a law now, if not acted on within the 45-day period by the delegation, the appointee to the scholarship board is deemed not confirmed and cannot be reappointed.

The senator stated in the bill that it is necessary to provide a time limit for the delegation to conduct public hearings and consider the mayor's appointees to the board.

The Rota Municipal Scholarship Board is composed of five members who serve for a term of four years and are eligible for reappointment, but for only a maximum of two terms. Its members are appointed by the Rota mayor. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

to further aid Star Marianas through the process.

"That is what we're working on right now. ... [Star Marianas] has already got all the certifications, went through all the processing, filled out all the applications," said Iakopo.

Last week, Iakopo visited the VA Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, to discuss with VA officials this air travel challenge as well as other challenges faced by CNMI veterans.

"Hopefully, after that is finalized, veterans from Rota and Tinian [will not] have this issue. That is one of the things that I'm

pushing for, for the VA to assist the local carrier," said Iakopo.

He told *Saipan Tribune* last July that CNMI veterans go to and have been going to the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan and the health centers on Tinian and Rota.

However, the CNMI only has one Veterans Affairs-contracted outreach clinic, which is currently at the Marina Heights II Business Plaza in Puerto Rico, Saipan. Veterans on Tinian and Rota who need veteran-centric healthcare services have to fly to Saipan at their own expense. (*Joshua Santos*)

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/FW-42200060 (CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO davemcalvo@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/42200061 (CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Biden's bad options: Russia, Ukraine, NATO and the United States

No sane American is eager for a hot war between the United States and its allies and Russia over a potentially imminent invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin's forces. Yet even as President Joe Biden talks up the prospect of imposing debilitating economic sanctions, he rushes additional arms to the Ukrainians and weighs deploying thousands of troops to send a signal to the troops amassed on the border of the former Soviet republic.

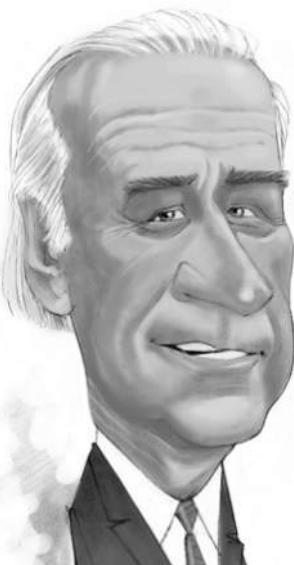
Sanctions, even sanctions on steroids as Biden has promised, are an imperfect answer to Russian aggression; the current standoff is proof enough that the fiscal punishment imposed in 2014 by President Obama after Russia seized Crimea had a negligible effect in deterring future mischief. But sanctions—ideally, imposed in concert with other nations, in a strong show of international discipline—are far, far, far preferable to a fateful military conflict with a country that, whatever its weaknesses, boasts a million-strong active-duty soldiers and about 250,000 reserves.

Russian expansionism is a grave threat to global stability, just as a Chinese encroachment into Taiwan would be. We are old enough to remember the justifiable outrage when Donald Trump, in his "perfect" phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, tried to make the delivery of congressionally authorized military aid contingent on the government ditzily ordering up an investigation into Hunter Biden. Ukraine should be able to defend itself against Russia because it is a sovereign nation, full stop.

Someday Ukraine may, much to Putin's consternation, join NATO, in which case a territorial incursion would indeed trigger additional commitments by other members of the alliance. But that is unlikely to be the case anytime soon.

There are no good options. But the worst outcome would be U.S. troops backing or blundering into an unwanted war with a major power. Try to deter Russian expansionism; punish it if it comes to pass. Don't slide into an armed conflict costing hard-to-fathom blood and treasure.

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Do Americans even know what free speech is?

The Knight Foundation and Ipsos have a new survey on Americans' views about free speech, and for those of us who consider spirited and even wrongheaded debate crucial to democracy, there's both good news and bad. Let's start with the good news. Asked whether freedom of speech is an important constitutional right, 99% of respondents in the Knight survey said yes. The only other right with such near-unanimous endorsement is the equal protection of the laws. So much for the good news.

The bad news is that on nearly every practical aspect of speech, divisions are sharp, partisan and afflicted by both the availability heuristic and recency bias.

It's striking, for instance, that Democrats, at 86%, are by far the most likely to agree on the importance of "preventing people from inciting others to violence." Republicans are at 68% and independents at 71%. How did the party of the left become the champions of law and order, and a significant minority of the GOP defenders of incendiary rhetoric?

That's where the availability heuristic comes in. Everybody seems to be focused on Jan. 6, 2021—and perhaps overreacting to an isolated event. Thus Democrats are forgetting their history of supporting those accused of fomenting violence in the cause of battling oppression, and Republicans are discarding their traditional insistence that protesters must make their cases without disturbing public order.

I'm not suggesting that Republicans as a group support the Capitol rioters—in the survey, only one-third describe what happened as legitimate First Amendment activity. I'm suggesting only that a few years ago, the GOP numbers would have been higher. (Incidentally, 12% of Democrats, perhaps captivated by rosy memories of armed Black Panthers marching into the California statehouse in 1967, also believe that the violence at the Capitol last January was an exercise in free speech.)

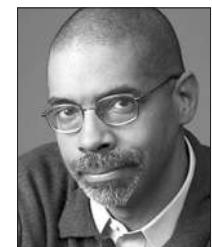
Which brings us to everybody's favorite bugaboo, the problem of misinformation. Even though Democrats (89%) are significantly more likely than either independents (73%) or Republicans (63%) to label "preventing the spread of false information" as either "very important" or "extremely important," the larger headline is that strong majorities of every group agree.

That's a problem. Free speech, like other constitutional rights, only makes sense if one is free to use it unwisely. Otherwise, there's no freedom to speak; there's only a freedom to speak what some arbiter declares to be the truth.

Alas, the Knight-Ipsos survey includes no queries about who gets to decide which particular information is mis. But there's a hint when respondents are asked whether they agree with this statement: "Online news providers should be allowed to publish any story without the government having the ability to block or censor them."

Again, the results are discouraging. A mere 60% of Democrats think that letting the government "block or censor" the news is

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg Opinion



Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include *The Emperor of Ocean Park*, and his latest nonfiction book is *Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster*.

a bad idea. Independents stand at 70%, Republicans at 77%. All these numbers are worryingly low—at least for those raised on the idea that democracy relies on roughing-and-tumbling our way through robust, open and unregulated public debate.

Speaking of rough and tumble, majorities of every political group believe that the 2020 racial justice demonstrations were a legitimate exercise of First Amendment rights. That's good news.

The bad news is the sharp partisan division over the status of protests against the results of the 2020 presidential election. Strong majorities of both independents (60%) and Republicans (73%) consider those protests legitimate acts of free speech.

Only 39% of Democrats agree. (At the same time, hardly anybody believes that burning or defacing the American flag is an appropriate form of protest. That only 16% of Republicans think so is unremarkable. That only 36% of independents and 37% of Democrats think so is a surprise.)

I'm hoping this low figure reflects once more the inability to turn away from legitimate outrage over the Capitol Riot. But sometimes turning away helps us see a bigger picture.

There's much more in the survey that's worth a look, but I'll mention just one last item. A recent trend in First Amendment scholarship views free speech principally as a protection for the voices of outsiders. In the Knight-Ipsos report, every group sees itself as the outsider, struggling to be heard.

Republicans and independents are certain that liberals have superior access to the public square; Democrats think the advantage lies with conservatives. No racial group, not even White Americans, is confident of its own ability to speak freely. (Black Americans, by a large margin, are most likely to believe that their own speech is marginalized.)

On the one hand, the fact that so many Americans think they're being crowded out of the public square is reason for sorrow. On the other, if it's true that most of the country believes its free speech rights to be imperiled, perhaps there exists a majority—dare we call it a silent one?—that will resist any effort to tamper with the First Amendment.

For democracy, that would be a big win.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ivanka Trump wanted to be at the center of it all. And now, boo-hoo, she is

The fate of the Capitol on the day of the insurrection, some White House insiders believed, rested on the slender shoulders of Ivanka Trump.

As President Donald Trump watched the mayhem unfold on Jan. 6, 2021, unwilling to intervene, it became clear to those around him that there was only one person on Earth who could get him to call off the dogs: his elder daughter.

One can only wonder what might have happened if she hadn't interceded.

After all, it took him several hours to ask the rioters to knock it off. And even then, he did not seem particularly upset about the bloodshed and violence. "Go home," he told them in a recorded video. "We love you, you're very special."

On Thursday, Rep. Bennie Thompson, chairman of the bipartisan House committee investigating Jan. 6, invited Ivanka to testify about what she knew in advance and what she saw, heard and did on that awful day. She is the first Trump family member to be asked.

In an eight-page letter crammed with juicy details about what the committee has learned so far, Thompson politely extended the invitation.

"We respect your privacy," he wrote, "and our questions will be limited to issues related to January 6th, the activities that contributed to or influenced events ... and your role in the White House during that period."

Of course they need to hear from Ivanka; she was in the room where it happened.

As adviser to the president and head of the White House Office of Economic Initiatives and Entrepreneurship, Ivanka was the Zelig of the Trump administration. She was everywhere, popping into view for photo-ops with world leaders, ducking out of sight when the heat was on and ludicrously taking credit, by her father's insane estimation, for creating 14 million jobs.

None of Trump's staff, apparently, had enough juice to get him to act on Jan. 6: "He didn't say yes to [chief of staff] Mark Meadows or [spokeswoman] Kayleigh McEnany or [presidential adviser] Keith Kellogg, but he might say yes to his daughter?" a committee member asked Kellogg when he testified.

"Exactly right," replied Kellogg, who was also the vice president's national security adviser.

The myths of the past no longer represent our world view

We live in an age of discord and distrust, much of it fueled by the splintering of our media landscape and the sheer volume of circulating information—and misinformation. But there is also a deeper fracturing of what we used to think of as national historical truths.

Over the past several years, significant reappraisals of our collective past have exploded in number. Reconstruction, which was always an inconvenient blemish on our redemptive Civil War saga, is now rightly seen as the systemic continuation of oppression that is was, for example. And the perceived unity of purpose of the Greatest Generation is now counterbalanced by a more rounded view of the ambivalence felt by many at home and the brutality felt on the battlefield.

In an era of falling statues and other icons, some Americans despair that we have lost our collective American narrative to cynical and/or negative portrayals that disconnect us from a healthy patriotism and one another. Others respond that we need such accounts to acknowledge past injustices and better legitimize our present society and government.

One thing is clear: Our revised annals are richer and more complex. As Diane Turner, curator of an Afro-American history collection at Temple University said recently, by "being able to tell everybody's story, it's good for the society as a whole ... Let's have these stories, because the more truth we have, the better it is." But with this ever-growing number of stories, might something also be lost?

One prominent American historian worried about this years ago. In a 1982 essay in *Foreign Affairs* appropriately titled "The Care and Repair of Public Myth," William McNeill (author of sweeping histories such as "The Rise of the West" and "Plagues and Peoples") feared discrediting old myths "without finding new ones to replace them." He understood such myths

Ivanka was right there when Trump put the screws on Pence to get him to toss out, or at least delay counting, the electoral votes of some states that Biden won.

So far, Ivanka, who has lain low after her twice-impeached father left office, has not publicly responded to the committee's invitation. I suppose that's understandable. She had her hands full last week.

On Tuesday, two days before Thompson's invitation landed, New York Attorney General Letitia James, who has been investigating the Trump Organization's alleged financial chicanery, filed a detailed legal memo in state court, explaining why Ivanka, her brother Donald Trump Jr. and her father cannot refuse to respond to her subpoenas requiring them to testify about the family business.

They have preposterously claimed that her lawfully issued subpoenas, served Dec. 1, constitute an "unprecedented and unconstitutional maneuver."

But, as James wrote in the filing, subpoenas to top and former company officials are "routine in complex financial investigations and are amply warranted here."

Eric Trump, noted James, has already testified, and invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege multiple times not to incriminate himself. (What was it that Donald Trump once said about taking the Fifth? Oh, yes: "The mob takes the Fifth. If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?")

It is not yet clear what is at stake in the New York investigation, but reams upon reams of documents procured by investigators show a family that appears to have wildly inflated the value of assets when it was convenient.

James has not yet decided whether she will take "civil remedial action" against the Trumps, but her office, she wrote in the court documents, "has developed significant ... evidence indicating that the Trump Organization used fraudulent or misleading asset valuations to obtain a host of economic benefits, including loans, insurance coverage, and tax deductions."

Why should Ivanka be worried?

Because, as James notes in a second memo, also filed Tuesday, she was the Trump firm's executive vice president for development and acquisition through at least 2016, and until January 2017 was "a primary contact" for the company's largest lender,

By ROBIN ABCARIAN

Los Angeles Times



Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

Deutsche Bank. She has skated on thin legal ice before; in 2012, Ivanka and her older brother, Don Jr., narrowly avoided being charged with felony fraud after they misled prospective condo buyers about how well units were selling in a project called Trump SoHo. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. overruled his own prosecutors when he decided not to prosecute.

I admit, my eyes did go a little crossed as I read through the 115-page memo, which showed wild and improbable fluctuations in the value of various assets in the financial statements the Trump Organization prepared for its lenders.

One example out of dozens: The Trumps claimed a value of \$161 million for property in Westchester County that had been appraised at between \$29 million and \$50 million. Apparently, they based the inflated value on un-permitted, unbuilt construction that had been, as they put it, "put on hold."

It's been comforting to watch the air of invincibility around the Trumps crumble.

In the same week that Ivanka was in the spotlight for various alleged Trump family misdeeds, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to stay an order forcing the National Archives to turn over Trump White House documents to the House Jan. 6 committee.

And in another blow, the district attorney of Fulton County, Georgia, asked that a special grand jury look into Trump's efforts to wheedle Georgia's secretary of state into falsely claiming Trump had won the state in 2020.

Will the Trumps finally face the consequences of their bad behavior?

Fingers crossed.

The myths of the past no longer represent our world view

By MALCOLM RUSSELL-EINHORN

The Baltimore Sun



Malcolm Russell-Einhorn teaches in the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University.

that have generated "freedom for" improved societal well-being. And of course, there is our voluntarism and activism, which continue to inspire people around the world nearly 200 years after de Tocqueville commented on them.

Perhaps our apex narrative needs to be one of economic and social progress that admits flaws and tragedies, but traces a hopeful and persistent, if jagged, story of growth and learning. Such an account, informed by more humility (and maturity) than those trumpeting our purported New World innocence and self-righteousness, can help inoculate us not only against hubris and global overreach, but exceptionalism and ignorance of other countries' histories. It might even make us more compassionate toward our forebears, whose transgressions, we tend to forget, were not informed by later knowledge and insights.

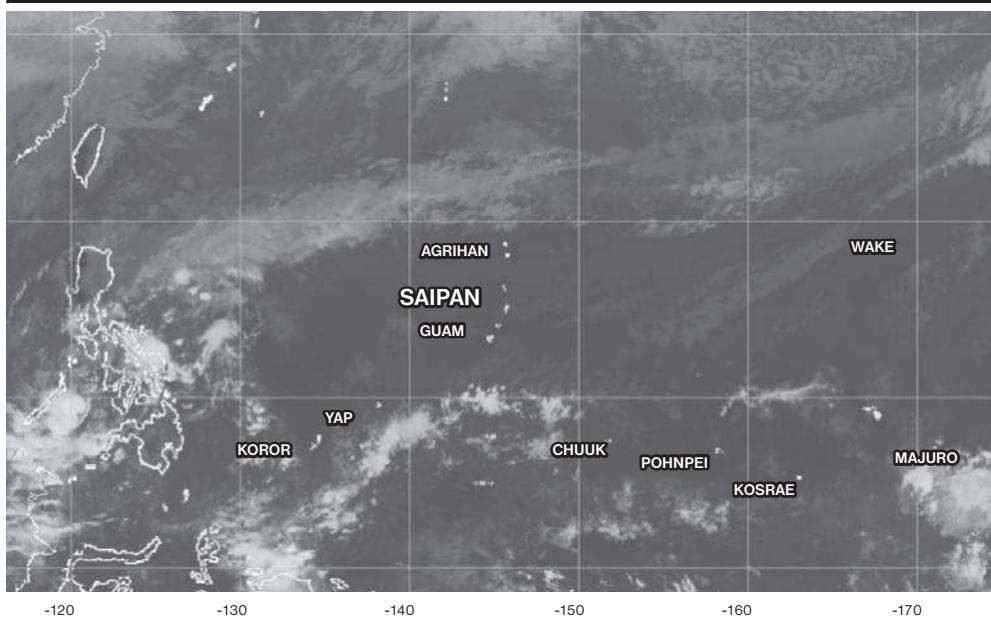
Our rejuvenated, more expansive public "myths"—fewer in number, but also more modest and congruent with our current understanding of the world—will require many different contributors (not simply "men of letters"), who are all part of our national mosaic. These myths will not, by themselves, dissipate the rancor that has swelled in the past decade. But they may be one way to help keep our conversations more constructive.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85°	76°	86°	75	85°
75°	75°	76°	85°	76°
85°	76°	86°	75	85°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:20 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows a thin line of showers near Rota, and a few showers south of the Guam waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of a northeast trade- wind swell and wind waves ranging from east-northeast to east-southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>

Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 InfoLine at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp/and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	29 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26°F
Majuro	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:12 PM
Thursday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Friday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM
Sunday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	01:26	13:09 PM	-
Thursday	02:27	14:00 PM	-
Friday	03:32	15:01 PM	-
Saturday	04:38	16:05 AM	-
Sunday	05:42	17:11 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	23 / 17 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	2 / -9 °F
Hong Kong	AM Clouds/PM Sun	21 / 17°F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 20 °F
London	AM Clouds/PM Sun	11 / 2 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	22 / 8 °F
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	32 / 25°F
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	33 / 25 °F
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	24 / 18 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	0 / -3°F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	10 / 3 °F
Paris	Cloudy	8 / 3 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	11 / 0 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	14 / 5 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	14 / 2 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	16 / 7 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	4 / -8 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	11 / 3 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	3 / -2°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
03:43 AM	High Tide	1.28
08:24 AM	Low Tide	0.95
2:12 PM	High Tide	1.72
9:56 PM	Low Tide	-0.22

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
A117 7:20am 8:05am 2, 4, 6				UA116 5:30am 6:16am 2, 4, 6			
UA117 9:50am 10:35am 1, 3, 5, 7				UA174 8:00am 8:46am 1, 3, 5, 7			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111 6:30am 8:20am 1, 3, 5, 7				PR110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 2, 4, 6, 7			
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm Daily				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 2, 5			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184 10:55pm 4:45am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3406 3:10PM 6:55PM Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z6243 4:00PM 7							

6 nominees for SCC 2021 Business Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the six nominees for the 2021 Business Person of the Year Award: Shayne Villanueva (AB Risk Solutions), Brian Shin (E-Land Group), Emma Perez (500 Sails), Billy Grow (TurnKey Solutions), Bart Jackson (Bridge Capital, LLC.) and John Arroyo (Bank of Saipan).

The nominees are all active members of the Chamber, gracious in their support of the community, and business leaders advocating for our economy and our enterprises.

The winner of this prestigious award will be selected by the prior recipients of this award and announced at the annual Business Person of the Year Gala slated for this Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, at the Kensington Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan from 5:30pm to 10pm.

Seats to the event are limited due to COVID-19 and available for advance purchase only for \$100 per person or \$800 per table (seats eight). For more information email coordinator@saipanchamber.com or call (670) 234-7150.

SHAYNE VILLANUEVA

Shayne Villanueva is young entrepreneur with an executive sales career mainly focused in Insurance broking.



Villanueva

Working over the last 15 years in San Diego his return to the CNMI in 2016 has brought new opportunities. Wearing multiple hats as a business owner, Shayne, is committed to his community and regularly seeks to support the people around him. He looks for ways to help local small businesses develop their capacity and has organized events to support local charitable organizations such as the CNMI Autism Awareness, MINA, Crime Stoppers, Tasi to Table, super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, Typhoon Mangkhut, and the Toys for Tots Program. His own entrepreneurial endeavors have been recognized by the *Marianas Business Journal's* Top 40 under 40 Business people in the regions award in 2019 and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Young

Professional of the Year award in 2019. This has inspired a new, young generation of small business owners to ideate and create their own cottage industry. Shayne is also a team player takes a personal interest in developing his team around him. His subordinates in his current role as Operations Manager at AB Risk Solutions regularly make the time and effort to demonstrate their gratitude to him for his leadership. When not focusing on his career, community or businesses Shayne enjoys fishing in our local waters or traveling abroad.

BRIAN SHIN

Brian Shin, the chief executive officer of Global Hotel Division of E-Land Park, is best described as a leader with entrepreneurship. He creates opportunity rather than waits for one. He takes bold steps to make difference rather than sits around. He takes crisis as a wake-up call for a change rather than uses it as an excuse for inaction. With his pioneering leadership, he is now overseeing corporate functions and three properties in Saipan, namely, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort, leading more than 500



Shin

employees. Brian made his comeback to Saipan in March 2020, this time as a CEO of the division, in the midst of worldwide disarray caused by the spread of COVID-19. He has been exceptionally working hard to endure and overcome the difficulties imposed by the pandemic for the past two years. Prioritizing the community's safety and health, he made prompt decision to operate PIC as one of non-congregate shelters in partnership with the CNMI Government. He also turned Kensington Hotel into one of the most beloved venues for gathering and staycations of local families. In January 2021, he led long-awaited re-opening project of Coral Ocean Resort, which had to go through full scale renovation

to recover colossal damages from Super Typhoon Yutu. In late December of 2020, at the meeting with Marianas Visitors Authority, he presented the idea of initial framework for travel bubble for Korea market, which later influenced the launch of Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP) program. Shin not only understands the social responsibilities of business, but also proactively finds ways for long-term target to be a part of more balanced, healthy, and sustainable development of the community. As a person of private sector, his interest lies in enhancement of viable economy by creating decent jobs, training workforce, and empowering the youth. As an appointed member of Governor's Council of Economic Advisors (GCEA), he is doing his part for the shared long-term goal to make CNMI a world class destination. He constantly reminds the employees what E-Land Corporation's ultimate mission from its founding moment is: to be the light and salt of the world.

EMMA PEREZ

That a nominee for Business Person of the Year should come from the nonprofit sector may seem unlikely to many, but of



Perez

course it makes perfect sense. The honor is not accorded to the person who has made the most money, or climbed highest in an organization. It is not about what a person has done for themselves. It is about the impact they have had on the community. It recognizes the intentional work that they have done to make the community a better place. This can take many forms, such as creating new jobs, providing new vocational and educational opportunities, providing funding for new businesses, improving business infrastructure, removing barriers to success,

and otherwise helping to build a community that is thriving.

Emma Perez has done all these things as a career non-profit finance professional working with CNMI non-profits. Her work for non-profits brought in over \$750,000 in grant funding in 2021 alone. This includes the second of three years of funding for the Marianas Association of Non-Governmental Organizations' "Lemmai Mei" Nonprofit Incubator, and the first of three years funding for the new 500 Sails' Cultural Maritime Training Center. But her help does not stop with obtaining grant funding. Emma is deeply involved in both implementing the funded programs and ensuring that they become sustainable. She installs and manages business systems, trains staff on how to use them, provides grant compliance support, and is involved in day-to-day operations. Almost all of her work with these organiza-

See SCC on Page 12



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 2, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel H. Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Mrs. Marcela Tenorio Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Assistant – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator



Faith, Hope and
KARIDAT

**A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(1) ACCOUNTANT

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

**NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, February 11, 2022 AT 4:00 PM**



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

**ADDENDUM NO. 1
DATED: JANUARY 10, 2022**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all prospective proposers of the following amendments to CUC-IFB-22-009:

The **Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit** has been rescheduled from 10:00am on January 13, 2022 to **10:00am on January 19, 2022**.

The deadline for submission of questions or requests for clarification has been extended from 10:00am on January 17, 2022 to **10:00am on January 21, 2022**.

Bid Submittal Deadline:

The deadline for submission of bids has been extended from 10:00am on February 2, 2022 to **10:00am on February 9, 2022**.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 9, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All other terms and conditions in the Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

SCC

From Page 11

tions is provided as an "in-kind" contribution.

Yet despite the huge impact that Emma continues to have on the CNMI's non-profits, she is best known in the community as an open water swim coach and a champion of cultural preservation. More people know her on and, in the water than on the land. She is a kind but firm mentor who leads by example. These character traits, together with her professional work, make her an ideal candidate for the honor of being named the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business Person of the Year.

BILLY GROW

With 15 years of collective business experience in various industries and business co-owner of TurnKey Solutions, former member of both the Marianas and Saipan Young Professionals, active member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Rotarian Club Saipan, Pacific Century Fel-



Grow

connectedness is paramount.

BART JACKSON

Bart Jackson has been a resident of the CNMI and Guam



Jackson

the holiday season giveaway, Bridge gave away a week's worth of food to 300+ needy CNMI families adversely impacted by the pandemic. Bart directed Bridge's participation in the Private Public Partnership Program through the revitalization of Garapan Central Park and the renovation of the popular and actively used Round House. He also expanded Bridge Capital donations to organizations like Tasi to Table, Salvation Army, and the Road to 80, among others. Also, Bart has worked directly with the CNMI Legislature to encourage the inclusion of private sector input on legislation impacting the economy.

Bart has spent more than half of his adult life in the Marianas. It is his home. He would like to congratulate all of the nominees on being recognized for their efforts and accomplishments.

JOHN ARROYO

John Arroyo has an extensive career in banking starting with the Bank of Hawaii as a commercial loan officer and then



Arroyo

officer of Coast360 Federal Credit Union and guided the credit union through a massive phase of growth and development, which included a membership base expansion, the addition of a host of new products and services, a core system conversion, a name change, a corporate re-branding and image upgrade, the opening of new branches and the construction of Guam's first U.S. Green Building Council Building Design and Construction-certified green building. After eight years heading up the credit union John decided to take a hiatus from banking so in January 2013 he joined Title Guaranty of Guam as its general manager. Three years later he was called back to banking and is now the president and CEO of the Bank of Saipan.

John holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Guam and a Masters of Business Administration from Oregon State University. John actively participates on civic and government boards. His previous involvement includes the Guam Land Use Commission, the American Red Cross Guam Chapter, Guam Banker's Association, Hurao, Inc., Guma Mami, Inc., JA Guam, University of Guam Endowment Foundation and the University of Guam board of regents. He currently is a sitting member of the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Island Chapter board of directors and NMC Foundation board. He has been a Rotarian since 2019 with the Rotary Club of Saipan.

In his spare time John enjoys fishing, golfing, traveling, reading and enjoying time with his wife, JoAnn, and son, Christian. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-DPL-42200036**
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.
**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAND, SAIPAN"**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIZON BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
**/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF DPL** **/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, P.S.**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/GCG-NASMHPD/TI 988-009**
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 4, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [www.chcc.gov.mp]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** **/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Seventeenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via zoom. Please see the link below.
AGENDA¹
I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments²
III. Unfinished Business
IV. New Business
1. Part B FFY 2020-2025 State Performance Plan & Annual Performance Report (SPP & APR) and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
2. Part C SPP & APR
3. Proclamation: Counselor's Week: February 7-11, 2022
4. Proclamation: Pupil Transportation Week: February 21-25, 2022
5. Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria
6. Certification & Licensure Matters
a. CLO Report No. 2022-17-01
7. Setting the Quarterly Board Meetings
V. Executive Session³
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters
VI. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
VII. Adjournment

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96809927253?pwd=bzI4UEFkdEJvY2xlUmhzSTB5RnCYZz09>
Meeting ID: 968 0992 7253
Passcode: 442203

In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-OVA-42200063**
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
**"LEASE OF A CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR
THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS"**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIZON BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****
QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. STANLEY T. IAKOPO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AT 664-2650 OR VIA EMAIL TO stanley.iakopo@gov.mp.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
**/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER** **/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.**

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Monday, January 31, 2022 | 2:00 PM
Governor's Conference Room, Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

**SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA**

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Public Comments
- B. Executive Session**
- C. Old Business**
 1. Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 Amendments
 2. Conditional Use Application #2020-3837 - Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI Inc.
- D. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

Business

China 2008 versus 2022: Richer, stronger, more confrontational

BEIJING (AP)—China has undergone history-making change since the last time it was an Olympic host in 2008: It is richer, more heavily armed and openly confrontational.

As President Xi Jinping's government prepares for February's Winter Olympics, it has greater leverage to exert influence abroad and resist complaints from the United States and other governments over trade, technology theft and its treatment of Taiwan, Hong Kong and China's Muslim minorities.

The economy is three times larger today. The ruling Communist Party is using that wealth to try to become a "technology power" and is spending more on its military than any country other than the United States.

"2008 was a turning point," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, an expert on Chinese politics at Hong Kong Baptist University. "That was the beginning of China's assertiveness."

As fireworks exploded over Beijing in August 2008, China was about to overtake Japan as the No. 2 global economy. The ruling party celebrated with the most expensive Summer Games to date.

Foreign media dubbed it China's "coming out party," echoing the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 that symbolized Japan's recovery from World War II. After three decades of keeping its head down to focus on development, Beijing was ready to emerge on the global stage as an economic and political force.

The ruling party declared its more assertive stance in 2012,

the year Xi took power, in a document that called for "more strategic rights," military status and a bigger global role.

Xi's government sees its system of one-party dictatorship under threat and accuses Washington of trying to deny China its rightful role as a global leader. The ruling party is tightening control over society and business and using internet filters and other censorship to shut out what it deems unhealthy foreign influences.

It is doing more to intimidate Taiwan, the island democracy Beijing says belongs to China.

"You can see that China is forced by the United States and its allies such as Australia, Japan and Britain to do so," said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing.

Xi is seeking to cement his control over the country. He is expected to use key political meetings late in 2022 to try to break with tradition and stay in power for a third five-year term as head of the ruling party. Earlier, he had the Chinese constitution changed to get rid of term limits on his role as president.

Once "more open to the outside world," China now is "much more paranoid," Cabestan said.

Beijing has sent warplanes in growing numbers to fly near Taiwan. It is pouring money into developing nuclear-capable missiles that can hit the United States and aircraft carriers and other weapons to extend its military reach beyond China's shores.

Chinese leaders believe, Shi said, that they need to defend themselves on several fronts:

a tariff war launched by then-President Donald Trump in 2018; curbs on access to U.S. technology; and military alliances involving Japan, Australia and other governments to counter Beijing's claims to the South China Sea and other territory.

"If there is a bad relationship between China and another country, it is because the other country harms China," Shi said.

In 2008, Summer Games preparations included a \$43 billion makeover of the Chinese capital. The party built the eye-catching Bird's Nest stadium and other Olympic venues, installed new subway lines and upgrading roads. Exercise equipment was installed in thousands of public parks across China.

The capital, one of the world's smoggiest cities, launched a "blue sky" campaign that shut down or replaced power plants, steel mills and other facilities and imposed traffic controls at an estimated cost of \$10 billion.

Today, Xi's government is wrestling with debt, pollution and other excesses of earlier years. It's also in the midst of a marathon campaign, launched before he took power, to steer the economy to sustainable growth based on consumer spending instead of exports and investment.

Under a vaguely defined initiative—dubbed "common prosperity" after a 1950s slogan—the ruling party is trying to narrow a politically volatile wealth gap between a billionaire elite and China's working-class majority.

Nation

COVID-19 vaccine booster drive is faltering in the US

NEW YORK (AP)—The COVID-19 booster drive in the U.S. is losing steam, worrying health experts who have pleaded with Americans to get an extra shot to shore up their protection against the highly contagious omicron variant.

Just 40% of fully vaccinated Americans have received a booster dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the average number of booster shots dispensed per day in the U.S. has plummeted from a peak of 1 million in early December to about 490,000 as of last week.

Also, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that Americans are more likely to see the initial vaccinations—rather than a booster—as essential.

"It's clear that the booster effort is falling short," said Jason Schwartz, a vaccine policy expert at Yale University.

Overall, the U.S. vaccination campaign has been sluggish. More than 13 months after it began, just 63% of Americans, or 210 million people, are fully vaccinated with the initial rounds of shots. Mandates that could raise those numbers have been hobbled by legal challenges.

Vaccination numbers are stagnant in states such as Wyoming, Idaho, Mississippi and Alabama, which have been hovering below 50%.

In Wyoming, 44% are fully vaccinated, up just slightly from 41% in September. To boost numbers, the state has been running TV ads with health care workers giving grim accounts of unvaccinated people struggling with

COVID-19.

"Certainly we would like to see higher rates. But it would be wrong for anyone to think that the rates we have are due to lack of effort," Wyoming Health Department spokeswoman Kim Deti said Tuesday.

And in neighboring Idaho, which also has one of the country's lowest vaccination rates, the number of people getting their first vaccine dose has remained under 1,000 almost every day this year and the number getting booster shots is also declining. Still, officials say they won't give up.

"I don't like to use the word 'resigned,'" said Elke Shaw-Tulloch, administrator of the Idaho Division of Public Health. "I think we just need to keep saying it over and over again, how important it is."



AP

Pharmacist Kenni Clark injects Robert Champion, of Lawrence, Mass., with a booster dosage of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination clinic at City of Lawrence's "The Center," which serves seniors, families and the community, Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, in Lawrence, Mass.

ACROSS THE NATION

Capsized boat found near Florida; 39 people missing

MIAMI (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard searched on Tuesday for 39 people missing for several days after a boat believed to be used for human smuggling capsized off Florida's coast en route from the Bahamas. A good Samaritan called the Coast Guard early Tuesday after rescuing a man clinging to the boat 45 miles (72 kilometers) east of Fort Pierce, the maritime security agency reported on Twitter. The man said he was with a group of 39 others that left the island of Bimini in the Bahamas on Saturday night. He said the boat capsized in severe weather and that no one was wearing life jackets. The Coast Guard is calling it a suspected human smuggling case. Officials said on Twitter that they are searching by

both air and sea over a roughly 135-mile (218-kilometer) area extending from Bimini to the Fort Pierce Inlet.

Ex-Northwestern prof gets 53 years for killing boyfriend

CHICAGO (AP)—A judge sentenced a former Northwestern University professor to 53 years in prison Tuesday for the 2017 stabbing death of his boyfriend. Cook County Judge Charles Burns called the killing of Trenton Cornell-Duranleau "cold-blooded" and an "execution" as he sentenced Wyndham Lathem, 47, who was found guilty of first-degree murder in October. Cornell-Duranleau was stabbed more than 70 times on July 27, 2017, by Lathem and Andrew Warren, a British man who Lathem had paid to come to Chicago to commit the murder together,

prosecutors said. Northwestern fired Lathem, a renowned microbiologist, after he fled the Chicago area following the killing.

Man accused of stabbing K-9 arrested after dad's body found

HOUSTON (AP)—A Houston man accused of stabbing a police dog and wanted for questioning in the death of his father, whose body was found hidden in his home's garage, was arrested Tuesday after evading capture for several hours, according to authorities. Police say Ryan Mitchell Smith, 26, is considered a person of interest in his father's death and had warned he should be considered a public threat given his recent actions over the past few days, including charges related to trying to steal a car and attacking the police dog.



RETURNING TRIBAL LAND

This undated photo provided by Save the Redwoods League shows some of the 523 acres of redwood forestland in Mendocino County, Calif., which was donated to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council for lasting protection and ongoing stewardship. The descendants of Native American tribes on the Northern California coast are reclaiming a bit of their heritage that includes ancient redwoods that have stood since their ancestors walked the land. Save the Redwoods League planned to announce Tuesday that it is transferring more than 500 acres (202 hectares) on the Lost Coast to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council.

Asia

Thailand decriminalizes pot



Thailand's Public Health Minister Anutin Chanvirakul shows off a bottle of extracted cannabis oil during a press conference at his ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019.

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand on Tuesday became the first country in Asia to approve the de facto decriminalization of marijuana, though authorities have left a grey area around its recreational use.

Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul announced that the Narcotics Control Board had approved the dropping cannabis from the ministry's list of controlled drugs.

The delisting by the ministry's Food and Drug Administration will now need to be formally signed by the health minister and enters into effect 120 days after its publication in the government gazette. It follows the re-

moval of cannabis—a plant species to which both marijuana and hemp belong—last month from the list of illegal drugs under Thailand's Narcotics Law.

Police and lawyers contacted by The Associated Press said it was unclear if possession of marijuana would no longer be an offense subject to arrest. A tangle of related laws means that production and possession of marijuana remains regulated for the time being, leaving the legal status of recreational marijuana use in a grey area.

The Health Ministry measure retains on its list of controlled drugs parts from the

cannabis plant that contain more than 0.2% by weight of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient that gives users a high.

Thailand in 2020 became the first Asian nation to decriminalize the production and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Under changes made in 2020, most parts of the cannabis plant were dropped from the "Category 5" list of controlled drugs, but seeds and buds, which are associated with recreational use, were retained. The proposal now being implemented by the FDA removes all parts of the plant from the list.

Tokyo reports record number of virus cases

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo on Tuesday reported a record high of COVID-19 cases, as Japan prepared to implement new anti-virus measures amid surging infections driven by the highly contagious omicron variant.

The capital city logged 12,813 new cases, while Japan's No. 2 business district of Osaka also reported a record caseload of 8,612.

Rising infections have begun to disrupt hospitals, schools and other sectors in some areas.

"We must do everything not to overwhelm the medical systems, so the lives that can be saved will not be lost," Economy Revitalization Minister Daishiro Yamagiwa, who is also in charge of COVID-19 measures, told reporters.

Nationwide, more than 62,000 virus cases were reported, according to Japanese media, for an accumulated total of about 2.2 million cases and some 18,500 deaths. While indicating a new high of infections, the numbers only reflect recorded COVID-19 cases.

A majority of the country—including Tokyo and other metropolitan areas like Osaka and Kyoto—will be placed under new restrictions from Thursday, with shortened hours for bars and restaurants and curbs on large public events.

The Japanese government has increased hospital capacity for COVID-19 treatment, since last summer when many patients critical patients overflowed from hospitals and died at home, but the country continues to face a shortage of testing capacity.

1st woman judge sworn into Pakistan's high court

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan has a woman on its highest court for the first time.

Ayesha Malik's swearing-in on Monday as a justice on Pakistan's Supreme Court was a landmark moment for the Islamic nation where women often struggle to get justice—especially in cases involving sexual assault.

Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad administered Malik's oath-taking in Islamabad. The event had been a controversial

development for Pakistan's male-dominated judicial system. Malik's appointment, confirmed last week by Pakistani President Arif Alvi, silenced some of her critics who opposed her promotion on technical grounds.

Congratulations flowed from the top, with Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeting of Malik, 55, "I wish her all the best."

Pakistani Sen. Sherry Rehman shared a photo of Malik's appointment, while the other four opposed it.

World

Ukrainian leaders: Stay calm, Russia invasion not imminent

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—

Ukraine's leaders sought Tuesday to reassure the nation that an invasion from neighboring Russia was not imminent, even as they acknowledged the threat is real and received a shipment of U.S. military equipment to shore up their defenses.

Moscow has denied it is planning an assault, but it has massed an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine in recent weeks and is holding military drills at multiple locations in Russia. That has led the United States and its NATO allies to rush to prepare for a possible war.

U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin "continues to build forces along Ukraine's border," and an attack "would be the largest invasion since World War II. It would change the world."

Several rounds of high stakes diplomacy have failed to yield any breakthroughs, and tensions escalated fur-

ther this week. NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in the Baltic Sea region, and the U.S. ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert for potential deployment to Europe as part of an alliance "response force" if necessary.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also said he is prepared to send troops to protect NATO allies in Europe.

"We have no intention of putting American forces or NATO forces in Ukraine," Biden said, adding that there would be serious economic consequences for Putin, including personal sanctions, in the event of an invasion.

In a show of European unity in Berlin, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron called for an easing of the crisis.

Scholz said he wanted "clear steps from Russia that will contribute to a de-escalation of the situation." Macron, who said he would talk to Putin by phone Fri-

day, added: "If there is aggression, there will be retaliation and the cost will be very high."

The U.S. and its allies have threatened sanctions like never before if Moscow sends its military into Ukraine, but they have given few details, saying it's best to keep Putin guessing.

The U.S. State Department has ordered the families of all American personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to leave the country, and it said that nonessential embassy staff could leave. Britain said it, too, was withdrawing some diplomats and dependents from its embassy, and families of Canadian diplomatic staff also have been told to leave.

Ukrainian authorities, however, have sought to project calm. Speaking in the second televised speech to the nation in as many days, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians not to panic.

'Urban conflicts affect more than 50M'

UNITED NATIONS

(AP)—More than 50 million people are affected by conflict in urban areas from Afghanistan to Libya, Syria, Yemen and beyond where they face a much higher risk of being killed or injured, the United Nations chief said Tuesday.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that in some cases civilians may be mistaken for combatants and be attacked. In others, he said, fighters don't try to minimize harm and

use explosive weapons in crowded areas that lead to devastating suffering for ordinary people who face life-long disabilities and grave psychological trauma.

As examples, he told a U.N. Security Council meeting on the protection of civilians in urban settings during wars that during last year's fighting in Gaza between Israel and Hamas militants dozens of schools and health care facilities were damaged and nearly 800,000 people were left without piped water.

In Afghanistan, an explosive attack outside a high school in the capital, Kabul, last May killed 90 students, mainly girls, and injured an additional 240 people, he said.

Guterres said the risk of harm to civilians "rises when combatants move among them and put military facilities and equipment near civilian infrastructure."

But he said conflict in urban areas "goes far beyond its immediate impact on civilians."



A backhoe breaks and removes parts of the Al-Jawhara building, as a worker recycles metal iron rods from the rubble of the building, which was damaged by Israeli airstrikes during Israel's war with Gaza's Hamas rulers last May, in the central of al-Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

Life & Style

Jury awards Cardi B \$1.25 million in defamation lawsuit

ATLANTA (AP)—A federal jury in Atlanta has awarded \$1.25 million to Cardi B in a defamation lawsuit against a celebrity news blogger who she says posted videos falsely stating the Grammy-winning rapper used cocaine, had contracted herpes and engaged in prostitution.

The jury on Monday found Latasha Kebe, known online as Tasha K, and a company she owns liable for defamation, invasion of privacy and intentional infliction of emotional distress against the rapper, whose given name is Belcalis Almanzar. Kebe's lawyers said in an email Tuesday that they disagree with the verdict and will file an appeal.

The jury awarded Cardi B \$1 million in general damages for pain and suffering and/or reputational injury and \$250,000 in medical expenses.

Kebe, who lives in the Atlanta area, produces, hosts and publishes a YouTube channel called unWinewithTashaK.

Kebe began targeting Cardi B in early 2018, making "degrading and harassing statements" about her, the lawsuit says. On Sept. 19, 2018 Kebe published a video of an interview she did with a woman who said she'd known Cardi B before her music career. The video includes the "false, malicious and defamatory" statements that Cardi B was a prostitute, has herpes and had suffered outbreaks on her mouth, and used cocaine.

"None of the aforementioned statements about Plaintiff are true," the lawsuit says. "Plaintiff was never a prostitute or a user of cocaine. Plaintiff has never, and does not now, have herpes, nor has she had herpes outbreaks on her mouth."

Shortly after the video was published, Cardi B's lawyer sent a cease and desist letter to Kebe demanding its immediate removal. Instead, Kebe published another video on Sept. 21, 2018, claiming that



Cardi B performs at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn., on June 16, 2019. AP

everything said in the video two days earlier was accurate and also asserting that the rapper was cheating on her husband, the lawsuit says.

Kebe then proceeded to attack Cardi B and make false statements about her on social media for months, the lawsuit says.

The statements caused Cardi B to "suffer embarrass-

ment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress," the lawsuit says. They also "caused damage to (Cardi B's) reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations."

Kebe knew the statements she published about Cardi B were false, or was aware

they were likely false, when she published them, the lawsuit says.

Cardi B originally filed the lawsuit against Kebe in March 2019. The woman Kebe had interviewed in the September 2018 video was initially a defendant as well, but the claim against her was terminated on Nov. 11, 2020, according to a filing by the judge in the case.

Kebe said in a court filing responding to the lawsuit that after she published the Sept. 19, 2018, video, Cardi B reached out to her via private message about the interview and was angry because personal details about her had been released. Kebe told Cardi B she wasn't interested in talking via private message and encouraged her to come on her YouTube channel to "tell her truth" in an interview, the filing says.

Cardi B declined and instead "went on a rampage" on Instagram, publishing numerous videos about information in the video and "began to publicly trash" Kebe, saying she "always makes up fake stories; harasses all of Cardi B's friends; constantly stalks Cardi B; uses Cardi B's name for 'click bait'; and many similar accusations," Kebe's court filing says.

Elton John postpones his Texas concerts after getting COVID-19

DALLAS (AP)—Despite being vaccinated and boosted, Elton John has contracted COVID-19 and is postponing two farewell concert dates in Dallas.

John "is experiencing only mild symptoms," according to a statement. "Elton and the Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour look forward to returning to the stage shortly."

John was due to hit the American Airlines Center stage in Dallas on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 but fans "should hold

on to their tickets as they will be honored at the rescheduled dates to be announced soon."

John's rescheduled 2020 North American tour kicked off on Jan. 19 in New Orleans and was scheduled to make stops in Houston, Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, New York and Miami.

John previously said he was postponing European dates on his world tour until 2023 so that he can have an operation on an injured hip.

Rihanna is backing her belief that climate change is a social-justice issue by pledging \$15 million to the movement through her Clara Lionel Foundation.

The "We Found Love" singer on Tuesday announced the donation to 18 climate justice organizations doing work in seven Caribbean nations and the United States. They include the Climate Justice Alliance, the Indigenous Envi-

ronmental Network, and the Movement for Black Lives.

"Climate disasters, which are growing in frequency and intensity, do not impact all communities equally, with communities of Rihanna color and island nations facing the brunt of climate change," Rihanna, who is from the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados, said in a

statement. She noted that disparity is the reason her foundation, which is named after her grandparents, prioritizes both climate resilience and climate justice work.

The grants, made in partnership with Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's #StartSmall philanthropic initiative, are focused on groups

with female, LGBT, and Black and Indigenous leaders because their communities are at the greatest risk.

"Funders must build partnerships with grassroots organizations, acknowledging their deep understanding of what is necessary to achieve climate justice in their own communities," Justine Lucas, Clara Lionel Foundation's executive director, said in a statement. (AP)

Man's estrangement from son compounded by incarceration

DEAR ABBY: My 38-year-old son is in jail for meth. He's been an addict for many years. I tried several times to help him, but he always relapsed. He has been in rehab. His mother and I divorced when he was 7. He was a great kid until the divorce. After that, he became distant and wouldn't talk much to me.

His mother tried to make up for the divorce by doing everything for him. When I wanted him to do something, like his homework, he would just sit and stare. I couldn't punish him because I was afraid he wouldn't want to come to my place when it was my weekend to have him. I did things with him and tried to show him I loved him, but I think he blamed me for the divorce. (It was my wife who wanted it.)

I don't think he ever loved me like a son normally loves his father, the way I loved and respected mine. He rejected any advice I tried to offer and paid no attention when I tried to teach him something.

I'm trying to decide if I want to contact him. I feel like I have always had to do the heavy lifting to try to have a relationship with him, and he made no effort at all to sustain one with me. If I never heard from him again, I really wouldn't miss him. All he has ever been is a taker. So I'm asking: Should I bother trying to get in contact with him while he is in jail?

FRUSTRATED FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Your son is sick—an addict. That he is in jail will hopefully mean he can attain sobriety. Reach out to him one more time. He may believe you deserted him and his mother because she allowed him to believe it, which would explain his attitude toward you all these years. It might be of some benefit to him to be reminded that you love him and care about his well-being. Once he is clean, he may have a different attitude where you are concerned. If not, at least you tried.

DEAR ABBY: I have ended a four-year romantic relationship. When times were good, they were very good. I had some of the most joyful and wonderful experiences of my life with him, my children and his family. We were planning to spend the rest of our lives together.

However, when the going got rough, he started seeing other women and, later, was hateful to one of my twin children. Even as I write that last part, I am appalled. I know in my head the relationship had to end, yet I continue to cry over the loss every day, and my sleep remains disrupted.

What's the matter with me that I'm pining over a man who turned so sour? I should feel relieved, right? How can I help myself move through this?

TOO MANY TEARS

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR TEARS: I sympathize with your disappointment. We have all been there. Now wipe your nose, dry those tears and remind yourself that, had the romance continued, you might have married someone who would verbally abuse your children and cheat on you. You aren't crying over the loss of "him" as much as grieving the loss of a dream that didn't come to fruition. Stay busy and focus harder on looking ahead, and you will move through this more quickly.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

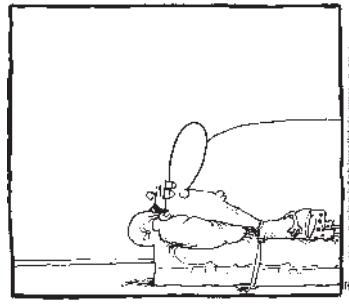


Adam@home

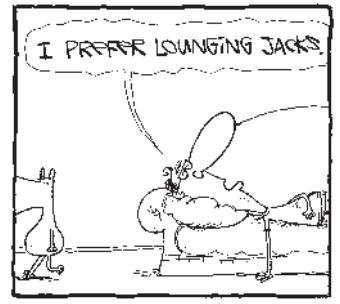


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	"Do unto others'	DOWN	19	YouTube upload (Abbr.)		
1 Beige		principle	1 Noble				
5 Some coll. degrees	40	United	Italian family				
8 Pride parade initials		Emirates	2 Goatee's spot	21	ER workers		
12 News anchor Smith	41	Like grams	3 Oboe, for one	23	Poll goer		
13 Bat wood	45	Stereo alternative	4 Revolted	24	Latin I word		
14 Vicinity	47	Dadaist Jean	5 Lox	25	Optimistic		
15 Level	49	Billy of "Titanic"	6 Smile center	26	Saturn feature		
16 Needlefish	50	Benefit	7 High-pitched yells	27	Crunchy cookie		
17 Penny	51	Caustic solution	8 Shoe fasteners	28	Mexican chili peppers		
18 Salad leaf	52	Satan's forte	9 Ali moniker, with "the"	32	Arcade game		
20 Concept	53	Church section	10 Stiller or Stein	33	Ballpark snack		
22 Military award	54	Started	11 Bit of ink	35	Pod veggie		
26 Cordoned (off)	55	Reply to "Shall we?"		36	Hearty quaff		
29 Agrees to				38	Unmanned plane		
30 Moody rock genre				39	Called a strike?		
31 Press				42	Carry on		
32 Score units (Abbr.)				43	"What's — for me?"		
33 Unpaid TV ads				44	Animation frames		
34 Kan. neighbor				45	CEO's deg.		
35 Picnic dessert				46	"Alley —"		
36 Pretentious				48	Reuben bread		

Solution time: 24 mins.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton Oswalt, 53; Alan Cumming, 57; Bridget Fonda, 58; Cris Collinsworth, 63.

Happy Birthday: Your heart is in the right place, and your words can and will make a difference this year. Share your thoughts, and stand up for your rights. It's important to have a voice during such uncertain times. Your strength and courage are your passage to leadership, equality and building a life that gives you hope for a better future. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 26, 32, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reach for the stars, don't let anyone derail your progress. Dedicate time to what matters most, and you'll feel good about who you are and what you accomplish. Be true to yourself, and you'll overcome any adversity you encounter. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change because you want to, not because someone is demanding. Consider your happiness, and follow through with your plans. Be original, and put your energy to work for you. You will influence others to join your quest. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a decision and stick to it, regardless of what others say. Dedication to your beliefs will impact what happens. Don't overanalyze a partnership; look at the pros and cons, and stick with it or walk away. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An unusual idea or offer needs careful consideration. Don't feel rushed or let someone push you in a direction you aren't ready to pursue. If change is something you desire, start

small. A response from the heart will eliminate unwanted interference. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate in something meaningful. Take a leadership position, and stand up for your rights. A dedicated approach to your life and achievements won't please everyone, but you are doing the right thing if it makes a difference to you. Believe in yourself. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your emotions on the back burner, and be realistic. Engage in positive events and activities that allow you to spend time with people who share your concerns and goals. A positive change will put a smile on your face. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A face-to-face encounter is necessary if you want the truth. Looking someone in the eye will help you decipher how to handle a situation that is troubling you. Shared expenses and responsibilities will pose a problem if equality is lacking. ★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to what others say. Be part of the conversation, and your words will have an impact. Be bold, take hold and do your part to maintain peace. Let your intuition guide you, and you'll make the right decision. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Express your feelings, and clear up misunderstandings swiftly. Don't mince words or believe everything you hear. Power is in the truth and living up to your promises. Be a great leader, and your comments will carry weight. Positive change begins with you. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Reconnecting with old friends will result in habits you left behind. Think twice before you indulge in something that holds you back. Be proud of your accomplishments and set a good example. Stand tall and offer positive reinforcement. Self-improvement is favored. ★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a step forward, show passion in your pursuits, strive for perfection, wisdom and compassion. How you treat others determine the response you receive and how popular you remain. Build your future on honesty and integrity. ★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone will misconstrue your colorful way of expressing your thoughts if you are too elaborate. Choose your words wisely, and refrain from talking about others if you don't want your life on display. Offer kindness, consideration and your assistance in order to keep the peace. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are concerned, intelligent and pioneering. You are dedicated and expressive.

●: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5			7					
	6			3	4			
3	5	9	1					
7	8			6				
5	1	8						
2	3	6		4				
1	9	4						
8			7					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	5	9	7	8	4	6	3
9	3	8	4	6	1	5	7	2
4	7	6	2	5	3	8	1	9
7	9	3	1	4	6	2	8	5
5	8	1	3	9	2	7	4	6
2	6	4	5	8	7	3	9	1
6	1	2	7	3	4	9	5	8
8	4	9	6	2	5	1	3	7
3	5	7	8	1	9	6	2	4

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1/27

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BACK-TO-BACK

Solution: 11 letters

N	E	X	T	U	O	K	R	O	W	R	S	W	E	N
N	T	I	M	E	T	A	B	L	E	H	M	O	Z	
I	C	H	A	P	T	E	R	T	I	O	F	I	L	
A	F	I	N	A	L	E	F	W	V	U	S	C	D	
H	O	A	G	T	N	A	E	O	R	S	S	A	N	
C	L	S	E	N	N	E	X	H	E	E	T	T	C	
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James has 33, Lakers beat Nets in Davis' return

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Davis' knee looked fine leaping high to slam down a lob pass from LeBron James on the game's first possession.

And he looked healthy jumping into his teammate in celebration after James' two steals and dunks in the fourth quarter punctuated his performance.

"I feel ready," Davis said

James scored 33 points and the Los Angeles Lakers welcomed Davis back with a 106-96 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night.

Davis had eight points in 25 minutes after missing 17 games with a sprained left knee and the Lakers got good nights off the bench from Malik Monk and Carmelo Anthony.

James added seven rebounds and six assists, highlighting his night with steals and dunks about 15 seconds apart midway through the fourth quarter in front of a roaring road crowd that didn't have most of its own stars to cheer.

Davis ran onto the court during the ensuing timeout and jumped into James, showing no fear while knocking his 6-foot-8, 250-pound teammate backward.

"Can't think about it. When I'm on the floor I try not to think about it," Davis said. "I was what, a month, five weeks, doing a lot of weightlifting. So I hit him, he kind of like fell over. I was more worried for him than my knee."

Monk scored 22 points, hitting six 3-pointers, and Anthony added 13.

James Harden had 33 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists in an impressive follow-up to his strong game in Los Angeles when the Nets won there on Christmas. But with Kevin Durant still out with a sprained left knee ligament and the unvaccinated Kyrie Irving unavailable again now that the Nets are back from their four-game road trip, the Nets couldn't match the Lakers on one of their good nights in an uneven season.

Afterward, Harden was asked about a Bleacher Report



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (6) reacts during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022 in New York.

story detailing reasons that he is frustrated in Brooklyn.

"Listen, I don't know about any reports," Harden said. "Of course I'm frustrated because we're not healthy, there's a lot of inconsistency for whatever reason. Injuries, COVID, whatever you want to call it, so yeah, it is frustrating. I think everyone in this organization is frustrated because we are better than our record is and we should be on the way up. So that's all it is."

Davis looked in sync right away, throwing down a lob pass from James on the first possession of the game. He also blocked three shots in the first quarter, which ended with the Lakers leading 33-25 on James' basket as time expired.

"Obviously right away you see what he's capable of," James said. "We draw a play right to start the game, I was able to turn the corner and threw a late lob that he was still able to throw home. So very exciting to have him back."

James opened the second quarter with a three-point play to push the lead to 11, and the Lakers would lead by as much as 14 before taking a 62-53 lead to halftime.

The Nets got within two midway through the third, but James made two straight jumpers, Monk hit a 3-pointer and James fired a pass to a cutting Russell Westbrook that

led to a three-point play that capped a quick 10-2 spurt and restored the double-digit lead at 81-71. It wasn't close again.

Clippers 116, Wizards 115

In Washington, Luke Kennard scored seven points inside the final 9 seconds, including a go-ahead four-point play with 1.9 seconds remaining, and Los Angeles overcame a 35-point first-half deficit to stun Washington.

Kennard hit a 32-footer out of a timeout and then, after Washington committed a 5-second violation, sank another 3 running to his right while absorbing a foul from Bradley Beal. He finished with 25 points.

Amir Coffey scored a career-high 29 points for the depleted Clippers, who evened their record to 2-2 at the midpoint of a season-long eight game trip.

Terance Mann and Isaiah Hartenstein each had 16 points for Los Angeles, which scored 80 points after halftime to improve to 7-10 since losing seven-time All-Star guard Paul George to a right elbow injury last month.

Kyle Kuzma had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Beal added 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter of Washington's fourth consecutive defeat.

76ers 117, Pelicans 107

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 12 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter as Philadelphia pulled away from short-handed New Orleans.

Tobias Harris added 33 points for the 76ers, who opened a five-game homestand by winning their 12th of the last 15.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 31 points and Willy Hernangómez had 29 for the Pelicans.

Embiid has played in 19 straight games, averaging 33.3 points, and Philadelphia is 13-6 over that stretch.

Warriors 130, Mavericks 92

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry had 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, rookie Jonathan Kuminga scored 22, and Golden State routed Dallas.

The Mavericks' Tim Hardaway Jr. suffered a broken bone in his left foot in the second quarter.

Luka Doncic had 25 points and eight rebounds, while Hardaway scored 10 points in 10 minutes for the Mavericks, who had used smothering defense to beat Golden State 99-82 on Jan. 5 at Dallas.

Jordan Poole scored 17 points off the bench as Golden State snapped a three-game

losing streak to the Mavericks. Klay Thompson returned and scored 15 points to go with six assists after he sat out two games.

Timberwolves 109, Trail Blazers 107

In Portland, Ore., Anthony Edwards scored 40 points and D'Angelo Russell got the winning basket for Minnesota on a goaltending call against Portland's Anthony Simmons with 2.9 seconds left.

Russell finished with 22 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who improved to 24-23 and surpassed their win total from last season (23-49).

Portland's Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and 14 rebounds for his sixth straight double-double, longest streak of his career.

C.J. McCollum tied the game at 107 on a 3-pointer with 10.2 seconds left, setting up the decisive goaltending call. McCollum finished with 15 points.

Raptors 125, Hornets 113

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam had 24 points and matched his career high with 12 assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-best 32 and Toronto beat Charlotte.

OG Anunoby scored 24 points, Chris Boucher had 12, Malachi Flynn 11 and Dalano

Banton 10 as the short-handed Raptors overcame the absences of starters Fred VanVleet and Scottie Barnes.

Siakam finished with nine rebounds, narrowly missing his second career triple-double.

LaMelo Ball scored 25 points and Miles Bridges had 22 for the Hornets, who had won three straight road games but were missing Gordon Hayward and Jalen McDaniels.

Celtics 128, Kings 75

In Boston, Jayson Tatum scored 36 points and Jaylen Brown had 30 points and 10 rebounds before both rested the entire fourth quarter as Boston routed Sacramento.

Robert Williams finished with 13 points and 17 rebounds for the Celtics, who got off to a torrid start and never let up on the Kings, even when both teams went to reserves for the fourth quarter of a game that had been long decided. Boston stretched its lead to 60 points before it was over.

Buddy Hield led the Kings with 11 points. He was the only Sacramento player to score in double figures as the Kings lost their fourth straight. Richaun Holmes had nine points and nine rebounds and Tyrese Haliburton added seven assists for Sacramento.

Spurs 134, Rockets 104

In Houston, Dejounte Murray had 19 points and 10 assists, Jacob Poeltl had 18 points and nine rebounds, and both sat out the fourth quarter as San Antonio coasted past Houston.

Houston led early in the first quarter, but the Spurs soon took over and were up by 15 at halftime. A 39-point third quarter put the game out of reach.

Kevin Porter Jr. had 16 points and nine assists for the Rockets. Christian Wood scored 15 points with seven rebounds for Houston.

Keldon Johnson added 16 points for San Antonio and Doug McDermott had 15.

Nuggets 110, Pistons 105

In Detroit, Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 21 rebounds and nine assists, and Denver beat Detroit.

Monte Morris made four free throws in the final 11.5 seconds to clinch the game, while Jeff Green added 20 points for the Nuggets in the second game between the teams in three nights. Denver won 117-111 at home on Sunday.

Cade Cunningham led Detroit with 34 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Bucks' Allen suspended for 1 game for foul on Bulls' Caruso

NEW YORK (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks guard Grayson Allen was suspended by the NBA for one game on Sunday for his hard foul on Alex Caruso that resulted in a broken right wrist for the Chicago Bulls guard.

Allen will serve his suspension Wednesday when the Bucks visit the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Caruso was driving to the basket Friday night when a hard foul by Allen caused him

to land on his right side. Caruso lay on the floor for a few minutes, though he stayed in the game to attempt the free throws that resulted from Allen's flagrant 2 foul.

The Bucks visit the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday before hosting the New York Knicks on Friday.

"We disagree with the suspension," the Bucks said in a statement. "We support Grayson and look forward to him rejoining our team for Friday's

game versus New York."

The Bulls announced Caruso's injury on Saturday. The team said he needs surgery and will be re-evaluated in six to eight weeks.

Bulls coach Billy Donovan said of the suspension that the NBA "has to evaluate those situations based on their criteria that they set up ... maybe there are people who think, 'You know what, he should be out as long as Alex is out.' All of those things, they're out of

my control and they're not my decisions."

Donovan also said before Sunday's game in Orlando that the best thing is to move on.

"I'm not going to sit up here and say what the league should or should not do or what's sufficient," he said.

Chicago is without guards Zach LaVine, Lonzo Ball and Javonte Green. Donovan said LaVine and Green worked out in Chicago on Sunday morning and are scheduled to join

the team in Oklahoma City on Monday, when they could potentially play against the Thunder.

Caruso, who is in his first season with the Bulls, had averaged 8.4 points and career-best totals in rebounds (3.9), assists (3.9) and steals (1.9) in 28 games. He was playing in just his second game back after missing more than a month because of a foot injury and a stint in the NBA's health and safety protocols.

Tsitsipas advances in Australia; Collins, Swiatek into semis



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Stefanos Tsitsipas maintained his

perfect record in Grand Slam quarterfinals, beating No. 11-seeded Jannick Sinner 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 Wednesday to reach the last four of the Australian Open.

The 23-year-old, No. 4-ranked Tsitsipas improved to 5-0 at this stage of a major. It's the semifinals he's yet to master, winning just one—at Roland Garros last year—from four so far.

He'll next play either Daniil Medvedev, who made his Grand Slam breakthrough when he won last year's U.S. Open title, or No. 9 Felix Auger-Aliassime. No. 2 Medvedev and Auger-Aliassime were meeting later Wednesday in a night match.

Tsitsipas didn't face a break point and converted all four he got on Sinner's serve in the match that lasted just over two hours, considerably less than his five-set fourth-round win over Taylor Fritz.

The only real delay came from a weather disruption, when a late afternoon storm meant the roof over Rod Laver Arena had to be closed when the Greek star was already up a set and a break.

"I knew I was heading toward the right direction," Tsitsipas said. "The conditions might have changed a little bit after the roof was closed—slightly faster, not as bouncy as before. I tried to adapt to



AP

Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece plays a backhand return to Jannik Sinner of Italy during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022.

the new conditions, and it just worked."

Dozens of ball kids and staff used towels to soak up water on the court in the 15-minute break.

The temperature dropped from the highs of the afternoon, when Iga Swiatek took three hours in the afternoon heat to beat 36-year-old Kaia Kanepi 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3, with the payoff being a spot in the semifinals against Danielle Collins.

"This match was crazy," the 20-year-old, 2020 French Open winner said. "First set I think my mistake was I had so

many break points, I felt like I missed my chances. In the second set ... I felt like she's playing so fast that I can't be tight. I had to finish my forehands."

The temperature reached 36 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit) on Day 10, continuing a week of hot weather.

Collins won the opening match before the heat peaked, swinging it in her favor with a key service break in the final game of the opening set on her way to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Alize Cornet.

No. 115-ranked Kanepi was coming off an upset, three-set win over No. 2-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and took the match to Swiatek, who saved nine set points before losing the first set.

Swiatek rallied in the second, exchanging service breaks twice before winning it in a tiebreaker.

After getting on top in the third, Swiatek was broken in the eighth game when she was serving for the match. She eventually clinched on Kanepi's serve, scrambling to stay in the last point until

the Estonian player sent a forehand wide.

After the first three quarterfinals were decided in straight sets — Ash Barty beat Jessica Pegula and Madison Keys beat Barbora Krejcikova on Tuesday — the last one went all the way.

As she left the court, Swiatek wrote on the TV camera lens: "Thank you for the support. # Tired."

Collins' win means there are two Americans in the last four. Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open runner-up, will play reigning Wimbledon and 2019 French

Open winner Barty.

Swiatek is the only one of the four players in the Australian Open semis for the first time. Collins lost to Petra Kvitova in the semifinals here in 2019, which remains her best run to date. Keys lost to Serena Williams in 2015 and Barty lost a semifinal final in 2020 to eventual champion Sofia Kenin.

Collins underwent surgery last year to treat endometriosis, a condition which had caused her severe pain during tournaments in 2021.

"It feels incredible, especially after some of the health challenges I've had," Collins said. "To be able to get back to this level and be able to compete like the way I have been ... is so rewarding."

"I've had some great matches along the way at this tournament ... really happy about how I'm feeling physically and mentally."

For Cornet, the loss ended a career-best run. The quarterfinal was her first in 63 Grand Slam main-draw appearances. The WTA predicts that the 32-year-old Cornet should return to the top 50.

Cornet had anticipated an aggressive game strategy from Collins, but the power in the ground strokes was "even more than what I expected."

"I felt out of breath all the time. I couldn't, like, play my game," Cornet said. "She just never let me do it, never gave me the time."

Her accusation against former Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli briefly appeared on her verified Weibo social media in early November before being swiftly removed. Screen shots of the post were shared across the internet, drawing widespread concern about Peng's safety.

Following the posting, the three-time Olympian and former doubles champion appeared standing beside a tennis court in Beijing, waving and signing oversized commemorative tennis balls for children. The foreign arm of state TV also issued a statement in English attributed to Peng that retracted her accusation against Zhang.

But WTA chief executive Steve Simon last month questioned the emailed statement's legitimacy while others said it only increased their concern about her safety.

The WTA made repeated calls for China to conduct an inquiry into the 35-year-old Peng's accusations and to allow the tennis officials to communicate directly with the former No. 1-ranked doubles player and owner of doubles titles at Wimbledon and the French Open.

Where is Peng Shuai? T-shirts will be OK at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Restrictions which resulted in the removal of a spectator for wearing a T-shirt supporting Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai at the Australian Open have been overhauled after international backlash.

With reports of activists planning to distribute hundreds of shirts branded with the question "Where is Peng Shuai?" in time for Saturday's Australian Open women's final, the message shouldn't be hard to find.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley told The Associated Press it would be OK for people to wear the shirts at Melbourne Park, as long as they didn't congregate in large groups or cause problems for other spectators.

"If they want to do that, that's fine," Tiley said in a telephone interview. But "if anyone's coming on site with the express intent of disrupting the comfort and safety of our fans, they're not welcome."

"We can't sell tickets in advance and have people come in and feel unsafe because there's a large group of people

that are using (the tournament) as a platform to espouse their views on whatever topic it is."

Footage screened last weekend of security and police requesting a fan remove a shirt which featured an image of Peng on the front and "Where is Peng Shuai?" on the back sparked widespread condemnation, with some critics describing it as cowardly.

Tennis great Martina Navratilova, a three-time Australian Open singles champion, posted a tweet saying: "That's just pathetic. The @wta stands pretty much alone on this!!!"

Tennis Australia responded initially by stating that the clothing breached its rule on "political messaging."

"To ensure that the Australian Open remains a welcoming, safe and inclusive event for everyone, we have a long-standing policy of not allowing banners, signs or clothing that are commercial or political," organizers said in a statement.

In a later statement, Tennis Australia said it understood "people have strongly held personal and political views on



AP

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley watches the fourth round match between Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece and Taylor Fritz of the U.S. at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, early Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

a range of issues."

"Peng Shuai's safety is our primary concern. We continue to work with the WTA and the global tennis community to do everything we can to ensure her well-being," the statement said. "Our work is ongoing and through the ap-

propriate channels."

Tiley said the security staffer was following the tournament's protocols on the weekend but, after a review, the woman involved in the incident would be invited back to the tournament because she wasn't deemed to be trying to

cause a disruption.

China drew international criticism following the near-total disappearance from public view of Peng. She wrote in a social media post in November that she was sexually assaulted by a former senior member of the ruling Communist Party.

'Bola' moves to Garapan Basketball Court



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the "Bola" kick-off session perform warm-up drills at the Koblerville Basketball Court last Saturday.

The Northern Marianas Islands Basketball Federation's Mini Basketball Village Outreach Program dubbed as "Bola" will have its second session at the Garapan Basketball Court this Saturday, starting at 4pm.

The program, which is supported by FIBA Oceania and FIBA Foundation, had its kick-off last Saturday at the Koblerville Basketball Court, but was cut short due to rain. Children who attended the shortened first session are welcome to come at the Garapan Basketball Court to complete the drills. Registration and waiver forms are available at

the NMIBF Facebook page NMIBasketballFederation and at the Garapan Basketball Court.

"We are inviting children age 12 years old and under to come down to Garapan Basketball Court and have fun with the basketball drills our coaches and NMI National Team Program players will be demonstrating," NMIBF president James Lee said.

Drills will be conducted by stations, as the NMIBF will be implementing safety protocols during the sessions.



Participants will be spread out in four stations to learn basic drills on dribbling, passing, shooting, and footwork. Balls will be provided to each participant as an added safety measure.

The CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management has also donated masks and hand sanitizers for the "Bola" sessions, while the Governor's Office and Sen. Vinson "Vinnie" Sablan (R-Saipan) donated bottled water for last Saturday's event in Koblerville.

Besides the Office of the

Governor, "Bola" is also presented by the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Office of Youth Affairs, the Division of Youth Services, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and DCCA's Sports and Recreation.

"We would like to thank FIBA Oceania, FIBA Foundation, and the many government agencies and offices that are supporting 'Bola' as their assistance allows us to provide a valuable program for our children and for the different villages in the CNMI," Lee said.

Dexter Tenorio, who brought

can Memorial Park and Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. And he's not about to retire the running streak anytime soon.

"I plan to continue this streak until something out of my control breaks it. I'd like to dedicate this to my wife and son, Nathally and Levi, for being my true inspiration to get better every day and to all the runners out

there getting after it," said the Marianas High School alumnus who is currently stationed at Patrick Space Force Base.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz said couldn't be prouder of Cadua.

"I didn't realize he was doing 365 until he told me last month when we worked out at the gym. Really happy CNMI has 4x365 Day Run Challenge

will be played per pairing and points will be awarded to each school: 3 points for two-game (straight) win for the victor and 0 for the loser; 2 points for 3-game victory for the winner and 1 for the loser. The team with the most points wins the match.

The same format will be implemented in the high school division, but each game is race to 21. Mt. Carmel School, Kagman High School, Saipan International School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Tinian, and Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School are the participating schools and they will start the double-elimination competition on Feb. 19. Tinian will debut against Mt. Carmel, Rota will take on

KHS, SIS will meet Southern, and MHS will collide against the winner of the Tinian-MCS game.

"We are excited for the first season of the interscholastic badminton league. Good luck to everyone and we're looking forward to getting this expansion sport started and increasing access to sporting opportunities for our youth," PSS Athletic director Nick Gross said.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino thanked Gross and the PSS leadership for including badminton in its interscholastic sports program. She reiterated the importance of the interscholastic league in talent identification and development and in the continued growth of badminton in the NMI. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the "Bola" kick-off session does shooting drills at the Koblerville Basketball Court last Saturday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	29	18	.617	—
Philadelphia	28	19	.596	1
Toronto	23	22	.511	5
Boston	25	24	.510	5
New York	23	25	.479	6 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	30	17	.638	—
Charlotte	26	22	.542	4 1/2
Washington	23	25	.479	7 1/2
Atlanta	21	25	.457	8 1/2
Orlando	9	39	.188	21 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	29	17	.630	—
Milwaukee	30	19	.612	1 1/2
Cleveland	29	19	.604	1
Indiana	17	31	.354	13
Detroit	11	36	.234	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
Memphis	32	17	.653	—
Dallas	27	21	.563	4 1/2
New Orleans	18	29	.383	13
San Antonio	18	30	.375	13 1/2
Houston	14	34	.292	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	30	18	.625	—
Denver	25	21	.543	4
Minnesota	24	23	.511	5 1/2
Portland	20	27	.426	9 1/2
Oklahoma City	14	33	.298	15 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	37	9	.804	—
Golden State	35	13	.729	3
L.A. Lakers	24	24	.500	14
L.A. Clippers	24	25	.490	14 1/2
Sacramento	18	31	.367	20 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I could swim long distance," she said.

The Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K was sponsored by the following: Law Office of Janet King, Kerri Bauer Yoga, Aqua Resort Club, Hibiscus Salon, Cha Cafe and Bistro, I Love Saipan Store, Mango Six, Zeno Corp., Aquasmith, Seawind, Sheila Mabutas, and Hardt Eye Clinic.

GARY,

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ko said she swims an average of 4-5 days a week.

"Now that my work schedule starts early I could only swim before work. That's why if I do go, it's still are always dark and only for a short swim. Weekends are the time

CADUA

From Page 20

finishing my first marathon and running a sub 2-hour half marathon."

Amazingly, he also was able to continue the streak while vacationing with his family on Saipan last November, where he mainly ran along Beach Road, Garapan and the Ameri-

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elimination contest. Bracket B has Tinian Junior and Senior High School, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School (Rota), Saipan Community School, Tanapag Middle School, and Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

Six matches will be played in the opening weekend this Saturday, starting at 1pm. Bracket A matches will have FMS facing Hopwood, Mt. Carmel battling Dandan, and SIS dueling the winner in the FMS-Hopwood tiff. Two more games are slated in Bracket A and pairings would depend on the results of the first three matches.

In Bracket B, only one game will take place this

weekend with SCS challenging Tanapag. Tinian and Rota will have their debut on Feb. 19 as they collide in Game 2 in the group, while Chacha will also have its first game next month against the winner in the SCS-Tanapag duel.

The middle school division will have a double-elimination format in each bracket and the top finisher per group will square off for the championship scheduled for March 12.

The TakeCare Insurance Interscholastic Badminton League is a team-format competition with each school playing five games/events per match—boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles. Each event is a best-of-three game and each game is race to 11 points. All five events

will be played per pairing and points will be awarded to each school: 3 points for two-game (straight) win for the victor and 0 for the loser; 2 points for 3-game victory for the winner and 1 for the loser. The team with the most points wins the match.

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Towns' 3-point play helps Wolves edge Knicks, 112-110
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Saipan Tribune Sports

'Bola' moves to Garapan Basketball Court

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cadua completes 365-day run streak

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan has another 365 Day Run Challenge Finisher after J.C. Cadua completed the feat last Jan. 19.

Cadua, who ran his first marathon last Nov. 28, started his 365 days of running at least 1 mile a day in Palm Bay, Florida and marked his 1-year anniversary in El Paso, Texas.

"I started this streak in Jan. 19, 2021. I have just became a dad and knew I was not push-

ing myself physically for a while. I decided to take on this challenge to help keep me accountable in getting my endurance up since I hate anything cardio-related. On top of that, I got inspired by my friends on social media especially the Run Saipan group back

home," the 23-year-old member of the U.S. Air Force said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

The son of former Saipan residents Roger "Elvis Presley" and Chato Cadua said keeping the streak going was not only a physical challenge but was a test mentally as well.

"It was definitely not easy, it takes discipline to lace up and get after it even after 15+ hour work/training days, traveling through different time zones, and doing whatever it

takes to not break the streak. As of today (Jan. 19), I just hit my 365th day and finished my mile after training for 14 hours."

Over the last year, Cadua tallied a total of 1,018 miles and completed two in-person and three virtual races, including the aforementioned marathon, which was the Nov. 28 Florida Space Coast Marathon 2021.

"Favorite moments were definitely hitting personal records and milestones such as

See CADUA on Page 19

Aleksenko said the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K was just another great experience in her swimming journey.

"This time only a few swimmers took part in my category so I had a chance to win. While swimming I kept thinking about my son (Isaiah) and was very happy to learn that he won first place as well. It's definitely a very special moment for me," said the 49-year-old native of Sakhalin Island, Russia.

On the conditions in the Saipan lagoon, the former Pacific Islands Club Saipan staff said the route was beautiful despite the surf being rough.

"The weather was fine. Water was cool and clear. Saw a turtle passed quickly and the current was strong. It was beautiful."

Like De Guzman, Aleksenko

See GARY on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
J.C. Cadua, seen here in a file photo from one of his runs in the 2021 calendar year, is dedicating his 365-day run streak to his wife and son, Nathally and Levi.

Gary, Yulia master ocean swim

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gary De Guzman and Yulia Aleksenko proved that swimming is not only for the young after conquering Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K last Saturday.

De Guzman, an assistant coach at SSC, was the first masters swimmer out of the water in the 3-kilometer race from Pau Pau Beach to the Tanapag boat ramp with a time of 46:02.

The 65-year-old native of Pampanga, Philippines said he could've completed the course

in 40 minutes if he didn't pace his students.

"I'm proud that even if I'm already old I could still compete and even finish first among masters swimmers," he said in Filipino.

De Guzman, who was the longtime caretaker of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool before the Marpi facility was mothballed a couple of years ago, said he attributes his swimming fitness to training at least five times a week.

"I'm a one-on-one instructor and in fact two of my students competed with me in

this morning's race," he said.

Finishing second to De Guzman in the men's masters is Tamio Nishikido who touched the sand in 47:43, while completing the Top 3 was Boboy Aguilar at 55:34.

In the women's masters, Aleksenko finished 17 minutes ahead of her closest pursuer after completing the open water swim in 48:35. Coming in a far second in the women's masters was Natalia Gvan at 1:05:16, while third place went to Chris Romero who timed in at a faster 46:13 but did so while wearing fins.



Aleksenko



De Guzman

17 join interscholastic badminton league

The TakeCare Insurance Interscholastic Badminton League will kick off this Saturday at the NMBA TSL Sports Complex with 17 teams participating

in the inaugural competition.

In the middle school division, 10 teams will be vying for the championship. The list includes Francisco M. Sablan Middle

School, Hopwood, Mt. Carmel School, Dandan Middle School, and Saipan International School, which are in Bracket A of the double-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Public School System Athletic Program director Nick Gross and staff Lawrence Camacho and Joshua Andrew attend a meeting with Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials to discuss the schedule for the inaugural TakeCare Insurance Interscholastic Badminton League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.